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***Carnahan Calls on International Community to Focus Efforts
On Preventing Iran from Developing Nuclear Arms***

(WASHINGTON) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) will vote to authorize tightened sanctions on Iran, calling on the international community to focus its combined efforts on preventing Iran from developing or acquiring nuclear weapons.

"Iran must halt its nuclear arms program, end of story," Carnahan said. **"The entire international community has a clear interest in encouraging them to do so. While we must continue to bring diplomatic pressure to bear, if Iran continues to ignore those efforts, we must employ strict sanctions to cut off the resources they need to continue with nuclear enrichment."**

The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote today on the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which lays the groundwork for an international sanctions regime against Iran, should multilateral diplomacy fail. The legislation gives the President the power to impose sanctions on companies that supply Iran with or support its domestic production of gasoline and other refined petroleum products. Such companies would be denied access to the U.S. market.

Although it is the fourth largest oil producer in the world, Iran relies heavily on other countries to meet growing domestic energy demands because it lacks domestic refining capacity, importing more than 25% of its supply of gasoline and other petroleum products. By targeting their

reliance on petroleum imports, sanctions would create a significant obstacle toward Iran's ability to develop nuclear capacity.

Carnahan is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which reported the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act by voice vote on October 28. Earlier this year, Congress passed the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act to allow state and local governments to divest their assets from any company that makes significant investments in Iran's energy sector.

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Congressman Russ Carnahan is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman of the International Organizations, Human Rights & Oversight Committee and a Member of the Middle East & South Asia Subcommittee.